



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

**NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME
COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020**

16 November 2020

Hon Kiri Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26I of the Conservation Act 1987, Section 45M of the Public Finance Amendment Act 2004, and Section 154 of the Crown Entities Act 2004, the Performance Report of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, for the period ended 31 August 2020.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Shortis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Paul Shortis
Chairperson

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

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ENTITY INFORMATION

Council

Noel Birchall	<i>Northland Fish and Game Council</i>
Nigel Juby	<i>Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council</i>
Lindsay Lyons - <i>Chairperson until April 2020</i>	<i>Eastern Fish and Game Council</i>
Kevin Williams (Concluded November 2019) Greg Duley (Commenced November 2019)	<i>Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council</i>
Paul Blewman	<i>Taranaki Fish and Game Council</i>
Paul Shortis - <i>Chairperson from April 2020</i>	<i>Wellington Fish and Game Council</i>
Bill O'Leary	<i>Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council</i>
Roy Knight	<i>North Canterbury Fish and Game Council</i>
Andy Harris	<i>West Coast Fish and Game Council</i>
Daniel Isbister	<i>Central South Island Fish and Game Council</i>
Colin Weatherall (Concluded March 2020) Rainsford Grubb (Commenced April 2020)	<i>Otago Fish and Game Council</i>
Chris Owen (Concluded February 2020) Dave Harris (Commenced February 2020)	<i>Southland Fish and Game Council</i>

Staff

Martin Taylor	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Debbie Mair (From 10 February 2020)	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
Jack Kós	<i>Policy Advisor</i>
Steve Doughty	<i>Business Development Manager</i>
Richard Cosgrove	<i>Senior Communications Advisor</i>
Brian Anderton	<i>Senior Communications Advisor</i>
Carmel Veitch (From 1 June 2020)	<i>Finance Manager</i>
Jordyn Mclean (Finished 17 January 2020)	<i>Office Administrator</i>
Yi Yang (From 9 October 2019 to 3 April 2020)	<i>Administration Assistant (part time)</i>

Council Office

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VISION

Fish and Game Determines the terrain for Anglers and Hunters.

PURPOSE

To represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and co-ordinate the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports Fish and Game birds as a recreational resource.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council), established under the Conservation Act 1987, is comprised of one appointee from each of the twelve regional councils. Under the Act its functions are set out in Section 26C which are broadly, in consultation with the regional councils, to develop national policies, advise the Minister of Conservation, oversee the electoral system and coordinate the national interests of the organisation including the distribution of licence fee income (virtually the only source of income for Fish and Game). The 12 regional councils operate autonomously once annual budgets have been set through a collaborative process that is coordinated by NZ Council.

I am the seventh chairperson of NZ Council. I was elected to the position on Friday 24th April 2020. The 2019/20 financial year represents the second and middle year of this NZ Council in a triennial election process. The NZ Council's financial year starts on 1 September and ceases on 31 August.

The year has been a challenging one due to both internal and external forces. This report will cover the main issues encountered during the year, not necessarily in a chronological order but rather in cascading order of importance.

Ministerial Review

At the commencement of the financial year the Minister announced a Ministerial Review of the organisation. Fish and Game has existed as an entity since 1990. While there was initially some concern internally, the organisation recognises that a "health check" is overdue. The Review Panel were appointed in June and have been meeting with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders and have a programme to visit all 12 regional councils. The Review is scheduled to deliver its recommendations to the Minister by the end of the calendar year.

Covid 19

Fish and Game is funded almost entirely from the sale of fishing and hunting licences. In the 2018/19 year this amounted to nearly eleven million dollars. Overseas anglers account for approximately \$1.5m of the total and, with the borders likely to be closed for the next year at least, the drop in income is significant for Fish and Game. While both NZ Council and most regional councils hold reserves it became obvious, as the crisis deepened, that we needed to take an organisation wide approach.

Firstly, NZ Council requested all councils to exercise fiscal restraint for the balance of the financial year. Secondly, at the time the pandemic struck we were embarking on the

budgeting process for the 20/21 financial year. The NZ Council developed a number of financial scenarios to model the likely impact of Covid 19. As a result of the modelling the budget setting process for the organisation was well informed and, utilising a combination of cost saving and use of reserves, budgets for the forthcoming year were agreed for both NZ Council and all regional councils.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work that was undertaken by NZ Council's Standing Finance Committee, the NZ Council staff and the regions. The annual budget setting process is a naturally challenging process in normal times. This year Covid 19 added a whole new level of complexity and the organisation came together in a spirit of cooperation. The challenge going forward will be to deliver on our statutory responsibilities whilst maintaining capacity and capability.

Advocacy and Public Awareness

In January the NZ Council continued to survey the public on their attitudes to water pollution and the state of our rivers and lakes. The survey asked people how concerned they were about a range of issues, including the cost of living, health system, child poverty and water pollution. Three quarters of those surveyed said they were extremely or very concerned about the pollution of lakes and rivers. Only five per cent said they were not that concerned. The only issue people were more worried about was the cost of living. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, we asked this same question. The concern for water quality has remained in the top two concerns for Kiwis each year that we have conducted this survey. We continue to deliver key messages on water quality.

It has been a very busy year for our advocacy role with many major government reforms needing our support and attention. Anglers and hunter interests have been well represented by the NZC with submissions and representations to the Government on gun control, the National Policy Statement – Fresh Water, the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, the National Policy Statement – Indigenous Biodiversity and on a number of new pieces of legislation that have the potential to affect licence holders. Covid 19 and the impact on the Game Season also resulted in a lot of advocacy work by the NZC and we were successful in ensuring a season took place.

Gamebird Habitat Trust

The Gamebird Habitat Trust continued its work over the year funded by the Habitat Stamp Programme. This year the stamp featured a female Paradise Shelduck/Pūtangitangi (*Tadorna veriegata*).

The Board's primary focus is applying the net receipts from the Habitat Stamp programme as grants to applicants for the protection, restoration, improvement, creation, or procurement of game bird or other wildlife habitat. Over the year the Board funded 19 projects and invested \$134,000 in support of habitat creation.

The Council

This has been a particularly demanding year for the NZ Council in terms of dealing with significant external and internal issues. Despite that, we have managed a huge programme of work. Councillors have adapted to the Zoom format of meetings and given up more than a few evenings to work through the challenges of governance in rapidly changing and often complex times. I am grateful for the dedication and support of the NZ Council through a very difficult period in Fish and Game's history. While there remain many challenges, I am confident we have the quality of thought and experience to serve Fish and Game into the future.

National Office

If the year has been demanding for the Council, it has been equally so for our CEO and the staff of the NZ Council office. Last Christmas our longstanding Policy and Planning Manager retired followed by the Administration Manager moving on to her preferred career in accountancy. Given budget restraints we did not replace the Administration Manager, so the team have been covering the administration function as well as their own role.

As always, I am particularly impressed by the way in which this small team go the extra mile on many occasions. For example, as previously mentioned we have had a number of Zoom meetings which have often extended well into the evening, yet our staff always attend and contribute.



Paul Shortis
Chairperson

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
for the year ended 31 August 2020

16 November 2020

The Council and management of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council accept responsibility for the accuracy of any judgements used in the preparation of the following financial statements.

We are responsible for the end of year performance information provided by New Zealand Fish and Game Council under section 19A of the Public Finance Act 1989.

We have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurances as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In our opinion, these financial statements and statements of performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Council



Paul Shortis
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Martin Taylor
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE
REVENUE AND EXPENSE
for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 Group \$	Budget 2020 Group \$	Actual 2019 Group \$
REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Levies		3,866,123	3,866,123	3,757,526
Other Revenue		3,051	-	317
		3,869,174	3,866,123	3,757,843
REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Interest		31,186	19,868	39,143
Magazine Contributions		178,068	70,000	108,398
Regulations Revenue		29,014	30,500	22,038
Sundry Income		35,151	6,000	12,522
		273,419	126,368	182,101
Total Revenue		4,142,593	3,992,491	3,939,944
EXPENSES				
Species Management	2	121,920	96,000	99,396
Habitat Protection & Management	2	180,485	450,000	436,766
Angler & Hunter Participation	2	221,551	199,500	234,020
Public Awareness	2	118,749	132,140	143,705
Compliance	2	16,404	27,500	19,917
Licensing	2	707,518	683,500	688,136
Council	2	94,397	130,000	127,113
Co-ordination and Reporting	2	147,940	217,500	368,342
Research		51,424	134,000	90,477
Distribution to Regional Budgets		956,992	891,308	830,877
Personnel Costs	3	821,977	888,990	689,976
Depreciation	9	13,166	12,230	11,739
Other Expenses	4	256,319	128,796	140,380
Total Expenditure		3,708,842	3,991,464	3,880,844
Net Surplus/(deficit)		433,751	1,027	59,100
Total comprehensive revenue and expense		433,751	1,027	59,100

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 Group \$	2019 Group \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5	1,179,334	1,330,588
Receivables - Exchange	6	29,543	66,174
Receivables - Non Exchange	6	138,579	167,200
Other Financial Assets	7	1,361,704	833,782
Prepayments		-	77,164
Accrued Income		97,500	61,843
Total Current Assets		2,806,660	2,536,751
Non-Current Assets			
Funds Advanced to NCFGC	8	-	-
Term Deposits		170,000	-
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	50,395	39,529
Total Non-Current Assets		220,395	39,529
TOTAL ASSETS		3,027,055	2,576,280
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	10	500,994	523,165
Employee Entitlements	11	66,623	57,408
NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust	12	133,337	103,357
Total Current Liabilities		700,954	683,930
TOTAL LIABILITES		700,954	683,930
NET ASSETS		2,326,102	1,892,351
Accumulated Funds	13	1,539,316	1,442,295
Dedicted Reserves	13	24,139	29,085
Restricted Reserves	13	762,647	420,971
EQUITY		2,326,102	1,892,351

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Equity			
Balance as at 1 September		1,892,351	1,833,251
Comprehensive Revenue and expense for the year			
Net Surplus		433,751	59,100
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		433,751	59,100
Balance as at 31 August	13	2,326,102	1,892,351

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Levies		3,866,123	3,686,789
Other revenue		269,984	131,882
Interest received		36,080	36,103
GST (Net)		14,600	-
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to suppliers		2,656,175	3,174,954
Payments to employees		812,762	691,331
GST (Net)		-	6,340
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		717,850	(17,851)
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Net amount received from investments		-	115,136
Cash was applied to:			
Net amount paid to investments		697,922	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		24,157	2,796
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(722,079)	112,340
CASHFLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Repayment of Loan		-	-
Cash was applied to:			
Long term Loan to NCFGC		147,025	-
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		(147,025)	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		(151,254)	94,489
Opening Cash		1,330,588	1,236,099
Closing Cash		1,179,334	1,330,588
This is represented by:			
Cash & cash equivalents	5	1,179,334	1,330,588

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

REPORTING ENTITY

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004. The Council has a wholly owned subsidiary, Fish and Game Publishing Limited, with the same balance date, which holds the Fish and Game magazine intellectual property. This entity has been consolidated in these financial Statements.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes. These statements were authorised to issue on the 16th November 2020 by the Council. No other party has the power to amend these financial statements.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The financial statements have been recognised on a historical cost basis.

Statement of Compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which includes the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP). For the purposes of complying with the NZ GAAP, the Council is a public benefit entity.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 Public Benefit International Public Sector Accounting Standard – RDR (reduced disclosure) as annual expenditure is between \$2,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

Changes in Accounting Policy

There have been no changes in accounting policy in the accounts for 2020.

Presentation of Currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Consolidated Accounting Policy

The Group financial statements are prepared by combining the financial statements of all the entities that comprise the Group, on a line by line basis. In preparing the Group financial statements, all inter-entity balances and transactions are eliminated in full.

Revenue Recognition

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group derives revenue from Fish and Game Council levies, interest on interest bearing deposits and miscellaneous income. Any amounts collected as an agent or on behalf of the other third parties (for example the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy) is not considered economic benefit and therefore is not revenue.

Revenue from Non-exchange Transactions

Levies

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is primarily funded from the levies payable by Fish and Game Councils, in accordance with 26C(f) of the Conservation Act 1987. These levies are used for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council; and for redistribution between Fish and Game Councils; and advocacy and research. Levies are recognised when the invoice is issued.

Revenue from Exchange Transactions

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Magazine Contribution

Income generated from the advertising within the Fish and Game magazine is recognised in the period that the magazine is distributed.

RMA Legal Revenue

RMA Legal revenue is recognised when the invoice is issued following awarding costs.

Operating Leases

Leases that do not transfer substantially all risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the Council are classified as operating leases. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense.

Distribution to Fish and Game Councils

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council makes distributions to Fish and Game Councils in the form of Grants to support regions; and reimbursement for RMA/legal funding; and Research projects.

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

FINANCIAL ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances, deposits held at call with the bank, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Receivables

Short term receivables are recorded at their face value, less any provision for impairment. A receivable is considered impaired when there is evidence that the Council will not be able to collect the amount due. The amount of the impairment is the difference between the carrying amount of the receivable and the present value of the amounts expected to be collected.

Other Financial Assets

Short term deposits have maturities between three months and one year. Investments in deposits are measured at amortised cost using effective interest method. At reporting date, the Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that an investment is impaired. Any impairment loss is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and expense.

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year which is unpaid. Payables are recorded at the amount of cash required to settle those liabilities. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Employee Entitlements

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employee renders the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken

Long-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled beyond 12 months after the period in which the employee renders the related service, such as long service leave and retirement gratuities. The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based in years of service, years of entitlement, and likelihood of that staff will reach the point of entitlement, and the contractual entitlement in formation; and
- The present value of the estimated cash flows.

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
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For the year ended 31 August 2020

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Significant donated assets are recognised upon receipt at valuation. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised.

Depreciation is charged on all property, plant and equipment, so as to spread the cost of the asset over its useful life.

Property, plant and equipment with a cost over the \$1,000 are capitalised.

Superannuation Schemes

Defined Superannuation Schemes

Obligations for the contribution to KiwiSaver are accounted for as defined contribution superannuation schemes and recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit as incurred.

Equity

Equity is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components:

- Accumulated Funds - surplus/(deficit)
- Dedicated Reserves and Restricted Reserves

Dedicated and restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specified conditions accepted as binding by the Council; and which may not be revised by the Council without reference to specific purposes or when certain specific conditions are met.

Asset Replacement Reserve

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable the Council to replace plant & equipment.

Election Reserves

A reserve set up to enable the Council to budget yearly for elections which are required by law to be held every 3 years. Exact election costs are variable dependent on the number of candidate nominations received for each council, with an election held in regions which have greater than 12 candidates. In the 2020 year this cost has been accrued into the balance sheet.

Research Reserve

A reserve has been maintained to undertake research projects approved & committed by the Council.

Legal Fund Reserve

A reserve set up to undertake legal cases approved & committed by the NZ Council.

**NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST, with the exception of receivables and payables which are stated GST inclusive.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the IRD is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The Statement of Cash Flows is presented on a gross basis, and any GST component in the investing or financing activities are incorporated into the operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Income Tax

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is a public authority and consequently is exempt from the payment of income tax. No income tax provision has been made.

Budget

The budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the November 2019 Council meeting.

New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Fee

New Zealand Fish and Game collects from each Fish and Game Council the Game Bird Habitat stamp fee on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust. The fee is (\$4) from the sale of every Game Bird licence sold for the most recently completed financial year. This fee has no economic benefit to New Zealand Fish and Game Council and is not treated as revenue. Likewise, any outgoings on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust are not recognised as expenditure in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council Financial Statements. Refer Note 12.

Accounting for Estimates and Assumptions

In preparing these financial statements the Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future in regard to asset lives and impairment of assets. None of these estimates and assumptions are considered material to the Council.

Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified for presentation purposes.

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Species Management			
Regulations	110,417	76,000	79,962
Sea Run Salmon Committee	11,503	20,000	19,434
Total	121,920	96,000	99,396
Habitat Protection & Management			
Resource Management	124,087	350,000	247,294
Advocacy	47,459	70,000	71,631
Water Conservation Orders	8,939	30,000	117,841
Total	180,485	450,000	436,766
Angler & Hunter Participation			
Access	-	-	31
National Magazine	221,551	199,500	224,836
General	-	-	9,153
Total	221,551	199,500	234,020
Public Awareness			
Advocacy	6,874	7,500	6,697
Communication	58,517	40,640	34,792
Education	6,241	7,000	6,385
Public Promotions	47,117	77,000	95,831
Total	118,749	132,140	143,705
Compliance			
Ranger Co-ordination	16,394	27,500	19,417
Compliance	10	-	500
Total	16,404	27,500	19,917
Licensing			
Licence Production and Distribution	190,949	182,500	177,239
Licence Projects	27,914	50,000	59,939
Licence Audit	6,000	6,000	6,000
Licence Contract	482,655	445,000	444,958
Total	707,518	683,500	688,136

**NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES Continued	Actual 2020 \$	Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Council			
Council Meetings & Sub-Committees	70,239	108,000	100,906
Governance and Performance Review	24,158	22,000	26,207
Total	94,397	130,000	127,113
Co-ordination and Reporting			
Management/Strategic Planning	23,947	48,000	124,169
Annual Planning	54,908	85,500	54,708
Assurance Services	4,116	5,000	4,055
Elections	45,000	45,000	119,657
Financial Audit Fee	14,001	14,000	13,699
Regional Audits	2,500	10,000	40,788
Staff Scholarship	3,468	10,000	11,266
Total	147,940	217,500	368,342

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 3 : PERSONNEL COSTS	Actual	Budget	Actual
	2020	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$
Salaries and Wages	788,806	847,973	658,560
Recruitment and Welfare	11,668	13,910	14,136
KiwiSaver Contributions	20,619	25,307	16,238
ACC Levies	884	1,800	1,042
Total	821,977	888,990	689,976

Note 4: OTHER EXPENSES	Actual	Budget	Actual
	2020	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$
Communications	10,330	10,000	6,511
Loss On Sale of Disposal of Assets	126	-	-
Occupancy Expenses	70,193	74,560	99,402
Purchases Under \$2,000	6,056	12,332	10,818
Stationery, Postage and Couriers	7,945	11,904	9,751
Storage & Insurance of Art	2,544	2,500	6,254
Subscriptions	4,330	3,200	2,936
Vehicle Expenses	6,682	11,500	-
Doubtful Debt	147,025	-	-
Sundry Expenses	1,088	2,800	4,708
Total	256,319	128,796	140,380

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 5 : CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	1,179,334	995,813
Term Deposits with maturities less than 3 months	-	334,775
Total	1,179,334	1,330,588

The Council has a Credit Facility with ANZ of \$14,000. At reporting date \$14,000 was issued to card holders. The amount payable at reporting date is \$6,113 (2019 \$10,333)

Note 6: RECEIVABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	(restated) \$
Receivables (gross)	164,098	205,430
Funds advanced to NCFGFC	-	19,025
Interest Receivable	4,024	8,919
Total Receivables	168,122	233,374

Total Receivables comprises:

Receivables from exchange revenue	29,543	66,174
Recoverables from non-exchange revenue	138,579	167,200
Total	168,122	233,374

Note 7: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Current portion		
Term Deposits	1,361,704	833,782
Total Other Financial Assets	1,361,704	833,782

Note 8: FUNDS ADVANCED TO NCFGFC

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Funds advanced to NCFGFC	147,025	-
Less Provision for Doubtful Debt	(147,025)	-
Total Funds Advanced to NCFGFC	-	-

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 9: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Movement for each class of property, plant and equipment as follows:

	Motor Vehicle	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost or Valuation				
Balance At 1 Sept 2018	37,594	65,659	7,815	111,068
Additions	-	2,796	-	2,796
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance At 31 Aug 2019	37,594	68,455	7,815	113,864
Balance At 1 Sept 2019	37,594	68,455	7,815	113,864
Additions	-	24,157	-	24,157
Disposals	-	(5,924)	-	(5,924)
Balance At 31 Aug 2020	37,594	86,688	7,815	132,097

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment losses

Balance at 1 Sept 2018	2,820	53,735	6,041	62,596
Depreciation Expense	3,759	7,714	266	11,739
Eliminate on Disposal	-	-	-	-
Balance At 31 Aug 2019	6,579	61,449	6,307	74,335
Balance at 1 Sept 2019	6,579	61,449	6,307	74,335
Depreciation Expense	3,759	9,179	227	13,165
Eliminate on Disposal	-	(5,799)	-	(5,799)
Balance At 31 Aug 2020	10,338	64,829	6,534	81,701

	Motor Vehicle	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Carrying Amounts				
At 31 Aug and 1 Sept 2019	31,015	7,006	1,508	39,529
At 31 Aug 2020	27,256	21,858	1,281	50,395

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
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For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 10: PAYABLES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<i>Payables under exchange transactions</i>		
Creditors	304,937	317,493
Income In Advance	-	12,690
Accrued Expenses	130,208	141,733
	435,145	471,916
GST payable	65,849	51,249
	65,849	51,249
Total	500,994	523,165

Note 11: EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Annual Leave	63,882	50,408
Accrued Wages	2,741	7,000
Total	66,623	57,408

Note 12: NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<i>Income</i>		
Game Bird Habitat Stamps sold with licences	120,263	97,933
General sales	14,019	16,616
Total Income	134,282	114,549
<i>Less Expenses</i>		
Product Production	18,306	21,786
Meeting Costs	-	2,887
Programme Administration	-	-
Total Expenses	18,306	24,673
Net payable to NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board	115,976	89,876
GST Applied	17,361	13,481
Gross payable at Reporting date	133,337	103,357

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
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For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 13: EQUITY	2020	2019
	Group \$	Group \$
<u>Accumulated Funds</u>		
Balance as at 1 September	1,442,295	913,203
Surplus/(Deficit)	433,751	59,100
Transfer to Reserves	(715,002)	(305,000)
Transfer from Reserves	378,272	774,992
Total Accumulated Funds	1,539,316	1,442,295
<u>Dedicated Reserves</u>		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	29,085	29,085
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	37,002	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(41,948)	-
Balance at 31 August	24,139	29,085
Election Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	-	70,000
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	(70,000)
Balance at 31 August	-	-
Total Dedicated Reserves	24,139	29,085
<u>Restricted Reserves</u>		
Research Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	202,861	204,881
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	70,000	134,000
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses/withdrawn)	(71,924)	(136,020)
Balance at 31 August	200,937	202,861
Legal Fund Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	218,110	616,082
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	608,000	171,000
Transfer to Accumulated Funds - spent /withdrawn	(264,400)	(568,972)
Balance at 31 August	561,710	218,110
Total Restricted Reserves	762,647	420,971
Total Equity	2,326,102	1,892,351

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 14: COMMITMENTS	Actual 2020	Actual 2019 (restated)
	\$	\$
Commitment to:		
Eyede Solutions Limited	650,000	444,600
Staff Development Fund	-	10,000
Research Projects approved to Regions	200,937	202,861
RMA Legal funding to Regions	562,643	218,110
Total	1,413,580	875,571

The above contracts have been approved by the Council and will be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense when the contract service conditions have been met by the third party or when a constructive obligation exists.

Operating Leases:

Photocopier Rental

Within 1 year	1,901	1,901
1-2 years	1,901	1,901
3-5 years	3,485	5,386
Total Photocopier	7,287	9,188

Premises Rental

Within 1 year	46,475	55,770
1-2 years	-	46,475
3-5 years	-	-
Total Premises	46,475	102,245

Total Operating Leases

Within 1 year	48,376	57,671
1-2 years	1,901	48,376
3-5 years	3,485	5,386
Total Operating Leases	53,762	111,433

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Note 15: CONTINGENCIES

During the year the Council agreed to top up any region that has a reduction in Reserves below 20%. As at 31 August 2020, the financial impact can not be accurately determined as it is contingent on the financial result of each regional council (2019: nil).

Note 16: CATEGORIES FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,179,334	1,330,588
Receivables	168,122	233,374
Accrued Income	97,500	61,843
Term Deposits	1,531,704	833,782
Total Financial Assets	2,976,660	2,459,587
Financial Liabilities - at amortised cost		
Trade and other payables	435,145	471,916
Employee Entitlements	66,623	57,408
NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust	133,337	103,357
Total Financial Liabilities	635,105	632,681

Note 17: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Entities

New Zealand Fish and Game Council manage the stamp programme activities on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Income is collected from the Fish and Game Councils and New Zealand Post. The net income after associated expenditure is transferred to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Refer to note 12.

Related party transactions

New Zealand Fish and Game Council receives levies from the Fish and Game Councils. Levies from Fish and Game Councils are legislated by the Conservation Act 1987. Transactions with Fish and Game Councils are not disclosed as related party transaction when they are consistent with normal terms and conditions for such transactions.

There is a total of \$152,451 outstanding from Fish and Game Councils as at 31 August 2020 (2019: \$180,123)

**NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Key Management Personnel compensation

Key management personnel compensation	Actual 2020	Actual 2019
Remuneration	\$435,043	\$489,279
Full time equivalent	3.3	4.3
<i>Note remuneration includes holiday pay and long service leave paid out to Key Personnel during the year.</i>		

Note 18: COVID RESPONSE

Covid-19 has had a financial impact on the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. In this financial year the revenue from levies has not been impacted, however, the forecast for the next financial year will see reduced levies. At the beginning of the lockdown there was uncertainty as to whether there would be a game season, however, positive lobbying from the Council staff ensured that there was a Game season, albeit delayed. This softened the financial impact of reduced income for the Regions. The 2019/20 budget was scrutinised, and only essential work and spending was undertaken to mitigate the impact of reduced licence income.

There has been a national response to the next financial year (2020/21) and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council has reduced the budget for the 2020/21 year along with a reduced projection of income. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council has accepted that in the 2020/21 year it will use reserves to cover any shortfalls.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council has established a policy to support any Fish and Game region to ensure liquidity and to ensure that all Fish and Game Councils remain a going concern.

Note 19: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There have been no significant events after balance date (2019; nil).

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

For the Year ended 31 August 2020

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) was established “to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game” (section 26B (1) of the Conservation Act 1987).

The proposed projects and activities of the NZ Council for the year ended 31 August are set out in its Strategic Plan. This Statement of Service Performance describes each of the three goals, key activities and associated performance measures, results achieved, and total output expenses incurred for the year.

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
We are seen as a powerful advocate for Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate for the protection and enhancement of sports fish and game bird habitats	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for: Anglers and hunters with advocacy on the NPS-FM, NES-FM, s360 regulations and NPS-IB.</i></p> <p><i>Representing Fish & Game interest on NES Forestry Group, New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy stakeholder working group, and NPS-FM implementation group.</i></p> <p><i>Presented and submitted to RMA review panel and attended select committee on RMA reforms.</i></p>
	Increase public awareness and support for sports fish and game birds and associated fishing and hunting	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for hunters with submissions on the Firearms Law Reform second tranche.</i></p> <p><i>Engaged with hunting sector groups – Federated Farmers, Game Animal Council, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, Wapiti Foundation, New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association, Safari Club International.</i></p>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for game bird hunters during the Covid-19 period by ensuring there was a game bird hunting season and extending the season to ensure equitable access.</i></p> <p><i>Communicated legal obligations to game bird hunters through Covid-19 period.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised closely with Ministers of Conservation, Sports and Police on the game bird hunting season to ensure that game bird hunters had an equitable opening day and extended season.</i></p> <p><i>Highlighted negative impacts of winter-break feeding and bad freshwater practices.</i></p> <p><i>Ran photographic competition to select a winning image for the 2020 fishing licence and the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Habitat Stamp.</i></p>
The public support what we do and what we say.	Promote public opinion Survey Public Opinion	<p><i>Released 79 press releases.(76 in 2019)</i></p> <p><i>Monitored public references to Fish and Game in media.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioned one Colmar Brunton poll to determine public attitude towards freshwater quality.</i></p>
To protect environmental resources that affect Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate generally Fish & Game interests in management of sports fish and game and habitats	<p><i>Achieved positive outcomes for: Anglers and hunters with advocacy on the NPS-FM, NES-FM, s360 regulations and NPS-IB.</i></p> <p><i>Representing Fish & Game interest on NES Forestry Group, New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy stakeholder working group and NPS-FM implementation group.</i></p>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Presented and submitted to RMA review panel and attended select committee on RMA reforms.</i></p> <p><i>Maintained social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.</i></p>
	Utilise the Resource Management Group for technical input	<i>Organised meeting of Resource Management Group to consider Fish & Game's submission on the RMA Law Reform Bill.</i>
	Secure RMA legal aid	<p><i>Financially supporting regions with approved funding for 2020/21 to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters.</i></p> <p><i>The NZC approved funds for 2020/21 from the RMA/Legal fund on the following basis:</i></p> <p><i>Southland: \$55,000</i></p> <p><i>Auckland/Waikato: \$110,000</i></p> <p><i>Lindis: \$100,000</i></p> <p><i>NPS-FM: \$150,000</i></p>
To promote improved and enduring public access for all Anglers and Hunters.	Advocate for securing access points	<p><i>Established regular quarterly meetings with Walking Access Commission to determine access issues across the country.</i></p> <p><i>NZC resolved at February 2020 meeting for staff to develop long term strategy for promoting public access. Strategy development deferred by Covid.</i></p>
We build strategic alliances with groups who share common goals	Work with environmental NGOs on shared issues	<i>Participated with Environmental NGOs – Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, Environmental Defence Society & WWF. Met with the Prime Minister, Leader(s) of the Opposition, Minister for the Environment and Minister of Conservation, plus Labour, NZ First and National's Environment Caucus committees.</i>
	Identify other strategic partners	<i>Engaged with hunting sector groups – Federated Farmers, Game Animal Council, New Zealand Deerstalkers</i>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
		<p><i>Association, Wapiti Foundation, New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association, Safari Club International.</i></p> <p><i>NZ Professional Fishing Guides Association with proposed Guide Licence.</i></p> <p><i>NZ Police, Fire & Emergency & Ministry of Primary Industries in development of an Infringement Notice system.</i></p> <p><i>Working with NZ Police and Ministry of Health through Covid-19 to ensure safety of staff, honorary rangers and licence holders.</i></p> <p><i>Building stronger relationships to share knowledge and research with Victoria University Wellington, NIWA, and the Cawthron Institute</i></p>
	Maintain working relationship with DOC	<p><i>Working relationship at multiple levels within DOC and involved with DOC stakeholder forums.</i></p> <p><i>Providing support for a review of Fish & Game.</i></p> <p><i>Participated in ENGO meetings with DOC Director General.</i></p> <p><i>Relationship with DOC Taupo renewed over shared issues such as trout farming, guides licence, licence sales, licence system and hatchery operations.</i></p> <p><i>Work with DOC on various matters such as implementation of Indigenous Freshwater Fish Bill, Infringement Fines system, salmon season bag limit, guides licence.</i></p>
Grow strategic alliances with Maori	Co-opt a Māori appointee to the NZ Council	<i>Deferred due to review.</i>

Goal 1: To Influence change at national level that affects licence holders		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
Our research and knowledge is respected and used by others.	Secure commitment from the scientific community	<i>Established Research Reference Group.</i> <i>Defined research priorities.</i> <i>Committed \$70,000 for annual research programme.</i>
	Mine Licence data for management benefits	<i>Analysed database for marketing, promotional and R3 purposes.</i>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
We are seen by the 12 regional F&G councils as leading and coordinating the organisation	Set national policies in three areas	<p><i>Continued with "This Week in Wellington" report to regions.</i></p> <p><i>Renewing the NZ Council's Communications Strategy</i></p> <p><i>Undertook review of New Zealand Council policies, both internal and organisation wide.</i></p> <p><i>Amending Reserves Policy considering economic implications of Covid.</i></p> <p><i>Amended Non-Resident Levy Policy.</i></p> <p><i>Confirmed Hunting Code of Conduct as National Policy November 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Approved Infringement Fines policy and submitted to Minister for approval.</i></p>
	Adhere to sound governance and meeting practices	<p><i>Ensured compliance with Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act as amended by Covid-19.</i></p> <p><i>Supported review of Fish & Game by Minister of Conservation.</i></p> <p><i>Presented advice on levying and budgeting powers and functions to regional managers.</i></p> <p><i>Held meeting of NZ Council with regional Fish & Game Chairs and provided governance training.</i></p> <p><i>Supported governance training for North Canterbury Fish and Game Council and recommended governance training for Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.</i></p>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
	Promote new opportunities for costs savings & efficiencies across the organisation	<p><i>Established NZ Council standing finance committee to review strategic finance and remuneration.</i></p> <p><i>Continued with introduction of a R3 customer-oriented focus to F&G activity.</i></p> <p><i>Undertook a Request for Proposals to introduce a new licensing administration system and CRM system to better engage with licence holders.</i></p> <p><i>Agreed to prioritise research on licence price optimisation</i></p>
We attract and retain high quality board and members of staff	Attract councillors	<i>Inducted three new councillors to the NZC.</i>
	Support executive	<i>NZC maintained executive committee.</i>
	Maintain a staff development programme	<i>No staff development grant approved due to reduced budgets because of Covid-19.</i>
We have a sustainable budgeting cycle	Have a robust finance management and reporting system	<p><i>11 regions utilising Xero.</i></p> <p><i>Standing finance committee established to consider Fish & Game's long-term financial position and implications of Covid for Fish & Game.</i></p>
	Manage costs	<p><i>Co-ordinated with regions to reduce costs because of implications of Covid.</i></p> <p><i>The Council operated to Covid-reduced budget for the year.</i></p>
	Financial statements and service performance accepted in annual audit	<i>Financial statements readable and transparent.</i>
The NZ Council co-ordinates and implements national policy across the entire organisation	Complete a review of budget policy	<i>A NZ Council Standing Finance Committee set up in April 2020, but review of budget policy not achieved.</i>
	Establish a policy on setting national Policy	<i>National Policy on Setting National Policy approved in June 2019.</i>

Goal 2: To ensure NZC is a robust entity		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
	Recommend the fee, form and sale of Game Bird Habitat Stamp & Associated products	<i>Recommended to Minister on 18 May 2020.</i>
	Maintain co-ordination and review of operational policies with regional managers	<i>Weekly Managers Meetings held via zoom through Covid period, and subsequently on a bi-monthly basis via zoom.</i>

Goal 3: To ensure Fish and Game as a National Body is unified and robust		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
Increased Angler and Hunter satisfaction.	Retain active angling and hunting participants at all levels	<p><i>Undertook Colmar Brunton survey on public perceptions of Fish & Game's freshwater advocacy.</i></p> <p><i>Continued R3 programme focusing on retaining, recruiting and reactivating anglers and hunters.</i></p> <p><i>Approved R3 roadmap.</i></p> <p><i>Website review undertaken to improve user experience.</i></p> <p><i>Work undertaken to standardise fishing events across the country.</i></p> <p><i>Support given to retaining and recruiting anglers in Fish & Game regions.</i></p>
	Initiate campaigns and support other initiatives to grow Angler & Hunter participation	<p><i>Bought together all national fishing events and workshops under one brand – "Take me Fishing". This will enhance awareness and promotion of these events, which are designed to grow participation.</i></p> <p><i>Established a partnership with Geozone which saw 500 angler access points included on the Campermate and NZ Motor Caravan Association apps. This initiative was aimed at recruiting holiday makers into fishing.</i></p>
	Promote new angling and hunting opportunities	<i>Work ongoing on sensitive fisheries and how to best manage them.</i>
	Reactivate lapsed anglers and hunters and maintain their participation	<p><i>Emails sent out to all whole season licence holders from two years previous who have not purchased a new season licence.</i></p> <p><i>R3 programme includes initiatives to target and reactivate licence holders.</i></p>

Goal 3: To ensure Fish and Game as a National Body is unified and robust		
Objectives	Outputs	Effects/outcomes
There is parity of budgets and staff salaries across the organisation	NZ Council will audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils	<i>Audit of the Wage Subsidy</i> <i>Review of Health & Safety practices undertaken in 3 Regions – Hawkes Bay, West Coast and Taranaki</i>
	Establish a remuneration policy	<i>Not achieved.</i>
There is majority support for decisions across the organisation	Coordinate the recommendation for Minister’s approval of all Notices	<i>Anglers Notice approved 20th July 2020</i> <i>Open Season for Game Notice approved 2 March 2020. Revocation and Replacement Game Notice approved 12th May 2020</i> <i>Licences, Fees and Forms Notices secured for both fish and game seasons.</i>
	Strive for policy consistency across all Councils	<i>Not achieved.</i>
The organisation has a sustainable income base and budgeting cycle	Recommend appropriate licence fees to the Minister after having regard to views of Fish and Game Councils	<i>Licence fees and categories submitted to Minister of Conservation and approved May 2020.</i>
	Determine, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, the amount of levy for administration of the NZ Council, redistribution between councils, advocacy and research	<i>Levy amounts determined and agreed at budget setting meeting in July 2020. (via zoom).</i>
	Maintain an effective compliance and law enforcement programme	<i>14 Rangers appointed or renewed in 2019-20.</i> <i>National Ranger Register updated.</i> <i>CERT training for new rangers and refresher courses provided across several Fish & Game councils.</i>

Independent Auditor's Report

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TO THE READERS OF NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Auditor-General is the auditor of New Zealand Fish and Game Council and its subsidiary (the "Group"). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Brent Kennerley, using the staff and resources of Grant Thornton, to carry out the audit of the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance of the Group, on his behalf.

Opinion

We have audited:

- the consolidated financial statements of the Group on pages 7 to 25, that comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 August 2020, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense, Consolidate Statement of Changes in Equity and Consolidated Cash Flow Statements for the year ended on that date and the notes to the consolidated financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the Statement of Service Performance of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, on pages 26 to 35.

In our opinion:

- the consolidated financial statements of the Group, on pages 7 to 25:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2020; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards with Reduced Disclosure Requirements (PBE IPSAS RDR) (Public Sector); and
- the Statement of Service Performance of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, on pages 26 to 35:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2020, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the budget approved by the Council for the financial year; and

- its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the budget approved by the Council for the financial year; and
- o complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 18 November 2020. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – COVID-19

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 18 of the financial statements, which explains the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Group.

The Council has put in place measures to minimise the impact of COVID-19 on the Group and the regional councils to ensure they have the necessary liquidity and remain going concerns.

Responsibilities of the Council for the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance

The Council is responsible on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for preparing consolidated financial statements and a Statement of Service Performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare consolidated financial statements and a Statement of Service Performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for assessing the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Conservation Act 1987.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance.

For the budget information reported in the consolidated financial statements, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's budget approved by the Council.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 6, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of service performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised): *Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Grant Thornton also completes an assurance engagement for the Council on regional licence revenue received and distributed by a third party. Other than this we have no relationship with or interests in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.



Brent Kennerley

Grant Thornton New Zealand Audit Limited
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand